EDITORIAL

The changes in status involved in the creation of the new technological universities has naturally coincided with a wave of what is now known as *rebranding* (an activity one hitherto associated with cattle-rustlers in the Wild West). This affects not just the TU's, but is also observable in venerable constituent universities of the NUI. (In particular, NUIG has become the University of Galway.) Postal addresses and email addresses are affected. I have tried to determine and use the correct forms of these various addresses, but there are bound to be lapses, and for this I apologise. Please let me know of any necessary corrections, for future use.

In this issue, apart from IMS business and meeting reports, we have an article about mathematical education, and classroom notes, book reviews and the problem page. The book reviews are looked after by Eleanor Lingham, and the problem page by Ian Short, and I want to acknowledge their invaluable help.

The book reviews include a dual-language review by Pádraig Ó Catháin. This is a novelty, proposed by the reviewer, who holds a position in DCU related to support for the use of the language. We accept material written in Irish or English. Almost all submissions are in English. We are happy to publish suitable material in Irish. This review is given in both languages, two texts that are intended to have the same meaning. We would not propose to make a habit of this, but I feel that this item will be useful to prospective authors who are inclined to try their hand at writing Irish. Too much that is written in Irish is about the language and related politics, and its survival and development are better served by using it to write about matters of ordinary concern.

The classroom note about the golden ratio earned inclusion for two reasons, apart from the charming coincidence it reports. First, the use of elementary inner-product-space methods makes it suitable as ancillary reading material for undergraduates taking a first course in linear algebra. Second, the use of coordinate methods to prove propositions about synthetic Euclidean geometry has become known in IMO circles as *the Irish method*, and though the note's author (who has a distinguished record in IMO-related education) has no visible Irish connections, his approach to this particular matter can be classed as Irish-in-spirit. To be sure, the Irish method is really the Cartesian method. One has mixed feelings about the fact that Irish IMO candidates have preferred it. On the one hand, Descartes' innovation has proven its worth in many applications over the past four centuries. One the other hand, the lamentable facility with synthetic methods found in our students, and consequent on the catastrophic 'reforms' of the Junior Cycle school geometry programme that began in the sixties, is a matter for regret.

We have just one report from an IMS-sponsored meeting this year, but with the abating of the pandemic the Society has received a reasonable number of applications, and we expect to get back to normal next year. Organisers should report by 15 December, for publication in the Winter issue.

We no longer carry a separate page of news items or of theses defended (due to lack of consistent reporting from the institutions), but I am happy to pass on the news that a doctorate in mathematics has been awarded by the Munster Technological University to Guillermo Cobos-Zara for a thesis entitled *The Ultrahyperbolic Equation.*

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[1]Go to `www.lulu.com` and search for *Irish Mathematical Society Bulletin.*